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SUBJECT: GERMANY WELCOMES OFAC PAPER ON BURMA SANCTIONS

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11. (SBU) SUMMARY: As the EU mulls its Common Position against Burma/Myanmar, Germany welcomed reftel information as a means of improving the effectiveness of EU sanctions against Burma. During the week of December 1, EconOff delivered the OFAC Burma sanctions paper to the German Ministries of Finance, Economics and Foreign Affairs. In response to the OFAC reftel paper, Economics Ministry representatives said that Germany has found Annex 1 of the EU Common Position particularly troublesome and has emphasized the need for more identifier information to correctly target sanctioned individuals. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said that they are seeking to establish German public outreach within Burma. END SUMMARY.

EU DESPERATE FOR MORE IDENTIFIER INFORMATION

12. (SBU) Economics Ministry Office Director Martin Lutz confirmed that the EU is considering an edit-down or complete removal of Annex I of the EU Common Position due to perceived ineffectiveness of the measures and potential for false-hits. Lutz said that the EU is in agreement with the spirit of Annex I, but in order for this to be truly effective, they need more robust identifiers for the listed individuals. Lutz noted that the attachments in the OFAC paper would be particularly useful in clarifying the identifiers and called Attachment II "extremely helpful."

GERMANY DOES NOT WANT TO APPEAR SOFT ON BURMA

13. (SBU) Lutz stated that any shift of the EU Common Position would likely involve reduction in the number of listed individuals and emphasized that Germany is sensitive to the fact that this could create the appearance that the EU is softening its Burma position. Lutz pointed out that the EU views streamlining of the current Common Position as "addition-by-subtraction" and should not reflect the EU taking a step back on Burma.

GERMANY CONSIDERING INCREASING BURMA PUBLIC OUTREACH

14. (SBU) MFA Desk Officer Alexander Fierley said that the MFA is cautiously trying to establish a Goethe-Institut in Burma in an effort to expand German public outreach to the Burmese people. (COMMENT: The Goethe-Institut is a non-profit German cultural institution, financed in part by the MFA, which promotes the study of German abroad and international cultural exchange. END COMMENT) Fierley said the German MFA is actively trying to engage "open-minded" Burmese military officials to set up cultural exchanges. His ministry has already made "excellent contact" with a Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister (NFI), who welcomes a cultural exchange. Fierley emphasized that Germany is approaching this very cautiously, knowing that high-ranking Burmese military officials will be watching these efforts very

closely. Fierley also said that officials from his ministry and the German Parliament are planning trips soon to Burma to begin their outreach.

Koenig